

REMARKS

Prompt and favorable allowance of the pending claims in the application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. In the drawings

The specification is corrected to overcome the objection to the drawings in the action.

Specifically, the specification at page 8, lines 15-17, is amended by the removal of "w" in reference to Fig. 2. As originally stated, the specification indicates that the wound dressing is intended to be placed against a wound bed. Other drawing figures, such as Figs. 5-9 exemplify the wound dressing placed over a wound bed. There is no need to identify a wound bed in Fig. 2 since the wound dressing is readily understood in connection with other drawings showing a wound bed w.

Further, the specification is amended on page 12 to provide a brief description on Fig. 12. Support for this description is found in originally-filed Fig. 12, and the specification on page 6, lines 4-10. No new matter is considered to be entered into the application by way of this amendment.

In view of the corrections to the specification, there is no need to actually correct the drawings. Removal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

2. In the specification

The specification is also amended to overcome the objection to the specification in the action.

First, as noted above in section (1), the specification is amended on page 12 to describe Fig. 12.

Next, the specification is amended to correctly denote the projection elements with reference numeral "57" instead of "56."

In certain instances, reference numeral "43" now reads "47."

Lastly, reference to "the needles," has been replaced with the consistent usage of the term "the projection elements."

Because of the amendment to the specification, it is submitted that the specification is corrected in view of the informalities noted in the action. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

3. In the claims

In the "Amendment to the Claims," claims 5, 13 and 15-20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The applicant reserves all rights to the subject matter recited in the cancelled claims, and to file these claims or derivatives thereof in a continuation application.

In view of the cancellation of claims 13 and 15-20, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is considered moot.

Claim 1 is amended with the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 5 was originally directly dependent from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6-12 and 14, which depend from claim 1, are placed in condition for allowance.

4. Double patenting rejection

In view of the allowable subject matter of claim 5 now incorporated into claim 1, the provisional double patenting rejection of claim 1 in view of U.S. patent application 10/725,575, or in the alternative by U.S. patent application 10/725,561 combined with U.S. patent 6,207,875 (*Lindqvist*), is considered moot.

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Examiner: Lewis, Kim M.
Art Unit: 3772

5. Conclusion

As a result of the cancellation of the rejected claims, amendments to the specification, and the prior allowance of the remaining claims, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin J. Cassell', written over a horizontal line.

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